



# CSDR NEWS

CHIHUAHUA & SMALL DOG RESCUE, INC.

## Health Alerts

### Food Recall

We've all heard about the dog and cat food recall. If you are feeding one of the recalled foods, stop using it right away and consult your vet. You can find additional information on the current recall at these web sites:

<http://menufoods.com/recall>.

The FDA press release:

<http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2007/NEW01590.html>

Cornell University College of Veterinary Science posted information for pet owners and veterinarians:

<http://www.diaglab.vet.cornell.edu/pdf/MenuPetFoodRecall.pdf>

Watch for symptoms of toxic poisoning in your dogs that include drinking and urinating more than usual, vomiting, lack of appetite, and diarrhea. Contact your veterinarian if symptoms persist more than a few hours.

This isn't the first pet food recall and manufacturers don't always acknowledge problems quickly. Watching for signs of illness in your dogs may help you get your pets to the vet early enough to avoid long term or permanent damage. Many of the symptoms for contaminated food are the same or similar as for other kinds of poisons, like anti-freeze. Knowledge and keen observation is your best defense.

### Sweetener Alternative Toxic to Dogs

Xylitol, a sugar substitute, is toxic to dogs. Used in candy, gum, cakes, cookies, jello, pudding, and other sweet treats, Xylitol can be fatal if ingested by dogs. For details, see [http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2007-03-18-xylitol-sweetener\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2007-03-18-xylitol-sweetener_N.htm)

### Animal Poison Control Center

This is handy information to keep near your phone and computer. The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center can be reached at <http://www.napcc.aspc.org> or call 888-426-4435. There may be a consultation fee if you call.

### Health Tip

**For everyday diarrhea, try plain pureed pumpkin. Start with half a teaspoonful, mixed with food or not. Most dogs like the taste.**



## Heartworm Season is Here

Heartworm is a type of round worm that lives in the lungs and right side of the heart in dogs. Heartworm is spread by mosquitoes and has been documented in every state. Symptoms include coughing, exercise intolerance, and abnormal sounds of the heart and lung. Untreated dogs usually die when the worms block the arteries and the



heart fails. Once diagnosed, heartworm can be treated, but prevention is safer for the dog and less expensive. Winters are so mild in Colorado that many vets recommend giving the preventative all year, but it's essential in the warm months.

See the Heartworm page on the CSDR web site or go to <http://www.heartwormsociety.org> for more information.

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## Take a Dog Along By Jeanne Stroh

We do routine home visits to ensure the safety of the dogs we place in adoptive homes. Most everyone expresses some anxiety about a stranger coming to and inspecting the home. Even people who are very familiar with small dogs don't always understand how vulnerable a tiny dog is. In rural areas predators can be a problem, so small dogs can't be left outdoors in open yards or tied out without some danger of coyotes, birds of prey, or bears snatching the dog. I saw a fox just three blocks from my home a few weeks ago, and I live in the middle of the city. I'm pretty sure foxes prefer smaller prey than a 5-6 pound Chihuahua, but I'm still glad I have several dogs to provide some safety in numbers. In any location, large dogs may be a danger. My garden service left the gate open last summer while I was at work, and a large dog got into my yard. I was glad my dogs could retreat through the dog door to the safety of the house. Possible hazards inside the home include chemicals, construction and hobby projects, and aggressive pets. Besides ensuring safety for a dog, a home visit is an opportunity to educate people before something awful happens.

Recently, I started taking one of my dogs along on home visits. At first I took them because I had another errand close to the home visit in which I was taking a dog or the dog begged to go for a ride. The results

quickly convinced me to start taking a dog along routinely. The prospective adopters seemed more relaxed with a dog to focus on, which in itself makes it worthwhile to take along a dog. More importantly, I was able to closely observe how the family interacts with a dog. On one visit, I took Sadie, my senior spaniel mix. The family has a toddler who is cautious with dogs. We spent some time showing her how to pet a gentle dog. Knowing that the child may be fearful, we'll take pains to place a dog with them that we know is good with children. The last thing we want to do is traumatize a small child with a hyper dog that might snap.

On another visit, I took April, my 7 month old Chihuahua. The family was interested in one of the poodle puppies, so I thought I'd take a dog that is close to the same age. The family has eight year old twins, and they showed an intuitive understanding of how to play with a dog, running away from it to encourage it to follow them rather than hovering over it and frightening it. The little girl was so excited about getting a dog that she literally bounced up and down at times, but she never directed her excitement at the puppy.

There are some risks of

embarrassment when taking a dog along into other people's homes.

April got so excited at one home she peed on the floor (sorry Mindy!). Since I tend to be an unmotivated trainer, taking my dogs along on home visits has strengthened my resolve to work with my dogs more. My dogs love the opportunity for an outing and some quality time alone with me. Getting a bit of my sandwich when we're on the road for awhile doesn't hurt either.

Volunteers doing home visits should not take a foster dog on these visits. It's not fair to the family or the dog. If you take the dog they're hoping for, you can give them the impression that they will get the dog. That decision will be made after the home visit report has been submitted. If you take a different dog than the family requested, they may feel pressured to adopt the dog you brought along. Either way, the dog will sense the increased anxiety and excitement. A rescue dog needs to be introduced to its new home in a



thoughtful, calm way.

All in all, taking one of my own dogs along on home visits appears to be a win-win for everyone concerned. I would never take more than one dog along as that would be too distracting and chaotic. And I'm always prepared to crate my dog in the car if the situation warrants. My dogs sometimes judge people better than I, so taking one along makes me more confident that my positive report truly reflects the suitability of the home for a rescue dog.

*Anything over 45 minutes seems like forever to your dog. You will be greeted as enthusiastically coming back from a two-hour shopping trip as you will coming back from a two-day vacation.*





## Rescued Dog by Arlene Pace

Once I was a lonely dog,  
Just looking for a home.  
I had no place to go,  
No one to call my own.  
I wandered up and down the streets,  
in rain in heat and snow.  
I ate what ever I could find,  
I was always on the go.

My skin would itch, my feet were sore,  
My body ached with pain.  
And no one stopped to give a pat  
Or a gently say my name.  
I never saw a loving glance,  
I was always on the run.  
For people thought that hurting me  
was really lots of fun.

And then one day I heard a voice  
So gentle, kind and sweet,  
And arms so soft reached down to me  
And took me off my feet.  
"No one again will hurt you  
Was whispered in my ear."  
"You'll have a home to call your own  
where you will know no fear"

"You will be dry, you will be warm,  
you'll have enough to eat"  
"And rest assured that when you sleep,  
your dreams will all be sweet".  
I was afraid I must admit,  
I've lived so long in fear.  
I can't remember when I let  
A human came so near.

And as she tended to my wounds  
And bathed and brushed my fur  
She told me about the rescue group  
And what it meant to her.  
She said, "We are a circle,  
A line that never ends".  
"And in the center there is you  
protected by new friends".

"And all around you are  
the ones that check the pounds,  
And those that share their home  
after you've been found".

"And all the other folk  
are searching near and far.  
"To find the perfect home for you,  
where you can be a star".

She said, "There is a family,  
that's waiting patiently,  
and pretty soon we'll find them,  
just you wait and see".  
"And then they'll join our circle  
they'll help to make it grow,  
so there'll be room for more like you,  
who have no place to go".

I waited very patiently,  
The days they came and went.  
Today's the day I thought,  
my family will be sent.  
Then just when I began to think  
It wasn't meant to be,  
there were people standing there  
just gazing down at me.

I knew them in a heart beat,  
I could tell they felt it too.  
They said, "We have been waiting  
for a special dog like you".  
Now every night I say a prayer  
to all the gods that be.  
"Thank you for the life I live  
and all you've given me.  
But most of all protect the dogs  
in the pound and on the street.  
And send a Rescue Person  
to lift them off their feet".

**Arlene Pace  
September 18, 1998**

When I wrote those poem it was inspired by my foster Sheltie "Patchie: who by the way is in a home where he is the light of their eyes. I think now that it is more in the way I see the rescue efforts of all the people that are doing such a great a job all over this country. So I wish to dedicate this poem to all of you in rescue, the doers, the helpers, the donators of money and/or time and tears. Please feel free to recopy, reprint or resend to anyone you would like to.

## Rescuing Little Ones Across Colorado

Chihuahua/Small Dog Rescue, Inc.  
53 Monk Street  
Colorado Springs, CO 80911

Phone: 719-291-3536  
Fax: 719-392-4355  
E-mail: [info@chihuahua-smalldogrescue.org](mailto:info@chihuahua-smalldogrescue.org)  
Web: [www.chihuahua-smalldogrescue.org](http://www.chihuahua-smalldogrescue.org)

CSDR News

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## Special Needs Dogs



Vicci came to CSDR after being dumped off at a vet with one of her legs broken in two places.

Just after the plate and pins were removed, Vicci decided to climb over a double-stacked baby gate and rebroke her leg, requiring a third surgery. This time, they had to put a plate back in her leg plus do a bone graft from her hip and also put a ceramic item along her leg bone.

There are so many Chihuahuas who need our help, and many of them need urgent medical treatment. Often, the decision to save a dog's life can boil down to our ability to pay for his or her medical bills. This can become very expensive, and can quickly drain our resources.

But when a dog needs help, we do our best to get them the treatment they require. We depend on our supporters to help us pay for these life-saving expenses.

If you wish to make a tax-deductible donation to any of the special little ones on the Special Needs page on the web site, please **make your check payable to Chihuahua & Small Dog Rescue, Inc.** and mail it to Chihuahua & Small Dog Rescue, Inc., Attn: Special Needs, 53 Monk Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80911.

## CSDR Upcoming Events

### Microchip Fundraisers

All proceeds go to Chihuahua & Small Dog Rescue, Inc. for medical costs of foster dogs.

Bring your dogs or cats to be microchipped so if they get loose, they will find their way back home.

Cost: \$35 per microchip which includes registration.

April 21, 2007  
Sherlock Hound  
4369 Stuart  
Denver, CO 80212  
12:00-4:00pm

May 20, 2007  
Key Bank Academy-Hancock  
3085 S. Academy Blvd

Colorado Springs, CO 80916  
10:00am-4:00pm

June 9, 2007  
Little Caesar's Pizza  
1175 S. Prairie Avenue  
Pueblo, CO  
10:00am-4:00pm

### Other Events

April 22, 2007  
Six Flags/Elitich Gardens  
10:00am-6:00pm  
Special Nonprofit day. Enjoy Six Flags without the long lines of summer. Six Flags is opening their gates as a fundraiser for nonprofit organizations. For each ticket you purchase directly from Chihuahua & Small Dog Rescue, Inc. for \$20.99

(normally \$44.99), CSDR will receive \$5.00. So come enjoy the day at Six Flags and support Chihuahua & Small Dog Rescue, Inc. at the same time. Order form on next page.

### Ongoing Fundraisers

Bring us your old cell phones (without accessories) and ink jet cartridges to help with the medical costs of our little ones.

Order or renew your magazine subscriptions from our web site (on How You Can Help page), and CSDR will receive a percentage from each magazine that you order for the medical costs of our little ones.

## Have fun and help Chihuahua & Small Dog Rescue, Inc. too!

Elitch Gardens is having a fundraising day for non-profit organizations on April 22, 2007 from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

For each ticket you buy at \$20.99, CSDR receives \$5.

To order tickets print this order form, fill in the information, and send the form with a check to the address below.

Please make check payable to Chihuahua & Small Dog Rescue, Inc. and put Elitch Gardens in the memo line.

All checks must be postmarked no later than April 13, 2007.

Send check and a copy of this form to:

Chihuahua & Small Dog Rescue, Inc.  
Attn: Karol McKinster  
9496 Webster Way  
Westminster, CO 80021

Thank you for your support!

## Spring Spin at Elitch Gardens

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ # of Tickets x \$20.99 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_